

APPLICANTS: BLOOM, Ilan et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/988,122
FILED: November 19, 2001
Page 7

REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. Claims 3-8, and 16-34 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 2, and 9-15 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claims 1-2 and 12-15 have been noted to be generic.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

The Telephone Interview

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner, Richard A. Booth, for granting and attending the telephone interview, with Applicants' Representative, Guy Yonay, Reg. No. 52,388 on November 20, 2003. In the interview, claims 1 and 9 were discussed, as were the Eitan et al. (U.S. Patent 4,758,869), Wang (U.S. Patent 4,992,391) and Kimura et al. (U.S. Patent 6,195,196) references.

During the interview, Applicants agreed to amend independent claim 1 to further highlight the distinction between the claimed invention and the cited references. More specifically, claim 1 was amended to include the limitation that the protection layer is resistive. It was agreed that claim 1 as amended is not anticipated or obvious in light of the prior art of record.

APPLICANTS: BLOOM, Ilan et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/988,122
FILED: November 19, 2001
Page 8

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Eitan et al., U.S. Patent 4,758,869 in view of Mitchell et al., U.S. Patent 5,120,672 and further in view of Wang, U.S. Patent 4,992,391. Claims 9-11 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Eitan et al., U.S. Patent 4,758,869 in view of Mitchell et al., U.S. Patent 5,120,672 and further in view of Wang, U.S. Patent 4,992,391 as applied to claims 1-2 and 12-15 above, and further in view of Kimura et al., U.S. patent 6,195,196.

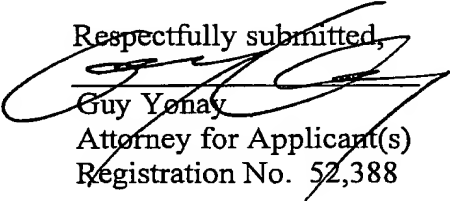
As agreed during the interview, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to further highlight the distinction between the claimed invention and the cited references. More specifically, claim 1 was amended to state that the protective layer is resistive. Hence, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, pending claim 1 is deemed to be allowable. Its favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Furthermore, dependent claims 2 and 10-15 which depend from claim 1, are considered allowable by virtue of their dependence upon allowable base claims.

APPLICANTS: BLOOM, Ilan et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/988,122
FILED: November 19, 2001
Page 9

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 05-0649.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: November 24, 2003

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